



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

Governor Kristi Noem, in coordination with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, is proclaiming the month of June as “Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month,” a time to reflect on the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injuries.

“The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who proudly serve and risk their lives to protect our freedom deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being,” the Governor’s proclamation states.

PTSI, which is commonly known as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury, is a normal reaction to abnormal circumstances and affects millions of Americans each year. It is most commonly associated with veterans – and has been known by many other terms, including shell shock and combat fatigue – but PTSI can affect anyone at any age.

“Our veterans face many life-changing and dangerous situations when they put their lives on the line in defense of our nation’s freedoms,” said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “Raising awareness of PTSI is an important step in ensuring veterans have the support they need to make a successful transition back to civilian life. This will help with increased understanding of unseen emotional struggles resulting from PTSI and is critical to the health and well-being of our returning heroes.”

It is estimated that between 10 and 30 percent of service members and veterans experience symptoms of PTSI.

“Every veteran processes their military experiences differently, but for those that are experiencing nightmares, flashbacks, irritability or other symptoms of PTSI, help is available,” said Whitlock.

Specialized treatment for PTSI is available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>.

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SD GUARD UNIT TO ATTEND TRAINING EXERCISE IN ROMANIA

About 110 soldiers with the South Dakota National Guard's 155th Engineer Company will participate in Operation Resolute Castle, a multinational-joint training exercise in Romania from June 12-July 1.

Resolute Castle is conducted annually in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve and provides a training opportunity for Reserve, National Guard and active component soldiers to work alongside NATO engineer forces to complete construction projects in Europe and enhance readiness and interoperability of military units.

The Wagner and Parkston-based 155th Engineer Company will participate in three construction projects during its three-week rotation, where they will conduct artillery range improvements and repairs for roads, firing points, and moving armored targets.

Soldiers from the 155th have been participating in planning events and coordination meetings since August 2021. Resolute Castle is typically executed by six engineer rotations with the host nation alternating between Romania and Poland every year since 2015.

Resolute Castle also increases U.S. Army Europe's ability to deter aggression, support allies and NATO partners, improve local infrastructure at forward training areas in Europe, and enhance the bonds between ally and partner militaries.

18th Annual Charity

Poker Run



727th DAV

September 03, 2022

SWIFTEL CENTER

824 32nd Ave, Brookings, SD

REGISTRATION

\$20 Per person
Begins at 10a.m.
Parade departs at high noon
6th Street & Main Avenue

\$500 BEST HAND

Plus other great prizes

RAIN OR SHINE

All vehicles welcome

PROCEEDS

Benefit DAV Hospital
Transportation Fund

QUESTIONS

CSM (Retired) Bob Foster
(605)690-1961
MSG Eric Kinslow
(605)415-1759

 facebook.com/727davpokerrun

MEMORIAL DAY

Our special thanks to all the veterans service organizations and county and tribal veterans service officers for their work in decorating the graves of our veterans and for coordinating Memorial Day programs throughout the state.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted two Memorial Day events this year. Although Mother Nature threw in a few curve balls, both events were very successful.

Programs like these take the support of great partners. We appreciate all our partners in the Sioux Falls and Hot Springs communities for assisting us with these services.

Tom Inman coordinated the Memorial Day program at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs. Former Lt. Governor Matt Michels served as the emcee for the program and Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden delivered the keynote address.

A surprise visit was also made by the ghost of General Logan and his wife.

Erin Brown, director of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery, worked with the Sioux Falls Area Veterans Council to host a community Memorial Day program in Sioux Falls.

Our sincere gratitude to the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance for hosting the event due to the weather change.

In addition, the River Cities Public Transit team deserves extra recognition. As they did last year, they agreed to provide transportation to and from the cemetery for all our guests. When the weather changed and the busses

weren't needed, this team stepped up and assisted in setting up chairs and tables at the Military Heritage Alliance. A true partner serving veterans every day!

A Memorial Day event was also held in Pierre at Riggs High School Theater. It was organized by the Disabled American Veterans and SDDVA Field Service Officer Kevin Swanson participated.

In quiet Memorial Day services across our state, we came together to remember those lost in the clash of battle; the thunder of bombs, the roar of tanks, the rumbling of airplanes flying overhead and the scream of artillery shells. Amid the war-torn decades we've endured, we take great pride in these heroes ... these men and women who believed they were just doing their duty. They had strength when the situation demanded it; determination when everything felt lost; and devotion, courage, and patriotism when others looked to them for guidance. No one ordered them to practice the most basic of human ideals ... they did it because they were Americans and lived in a nation worth defending.



VA PUBLISHES INTERIM FINAL RULE FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS GRANT PROGRAM

As part of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' national homeless prevention efforts, the VA published an Interim Final Rule which allows the VA to enhance the provision of legal services for veterans experiencing or at risk for homelessness.

Under section 4202 of the [Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D., Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020](#), the VA will, through the Legal Services for Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness Grant Program, offer up to 75 grants each year to eligible entities, with at least 10% of funding being utilized for women veterans.

These grants will also satisfy section 5105 of the Act, which requires the VA to partner with outside organizations to provide legal services to women veterans.

"Providing full access to justice and legal services for veterans takes unified, inter-agency partnerships, from the Federal level down to states, cities, and communities at the grassroots-level where veterans work and live," said VA Secretary Denis

McDonough. "This first-of-its-kind grant will ensure that legal services are available nationwide to veterans in need."

LSV-Homeless builds on existing [legal services](#) offered to veterans through partnerships between the VA and legal service providers in communities across the U.S. Services provided by the new grants will support veterans' legal needs related to such housing, family law issues, income support, criminal defense, and requests to upgrade the characterization of a discharge.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity with instructions on how to apply for a grant is expected to be published in September 2022 once the Final Rule for the grant program is complete.

Get information on [LSV-Homeless](#). The Interim Final Rule is available for [public inspection preview](#). The official version of this IFR is scheduled to publish June 1.





**The Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) North Central Chapter
will be hosting a special fundraising event on Friday, October 21, 2022,
at
The South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc. (1600 W. Russell Ave, Sioux
Falls) featuring the**

Dueling Pianos International!



Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for social hour, appetizers will be provided along with a cash bar that will be open throughout the evening. **Entertainment will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp!**

Tickets are available at \$30.00 per person or a table sponsor (8 people) \$350 or Supreme table sponsor (8 people) for \$500

Proceeds from the event will help support our programs and services we provide to our Veterans and other individuals with disabilities.

Dueling Pianos International is America's premier source for top-line sing-along entertainment. For 19 years, Dueling Pianos International has specialized in top-flight dueling piano entertainment, and has developed a national reputation as the source for polished, professional artists who never fail to get audiences singing, cheering, and calling for more.

Please join us for a fun filled evening! If you have any questions or want to purchase tickets, please call the Chapter Office at 605-336-0494 or email info@ncpva.org.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!! Bring your family and friends!



North Central Chapter

Save the date!!

Annual Chapter Picnic

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

11:45 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

PVA North Central Chapter Office

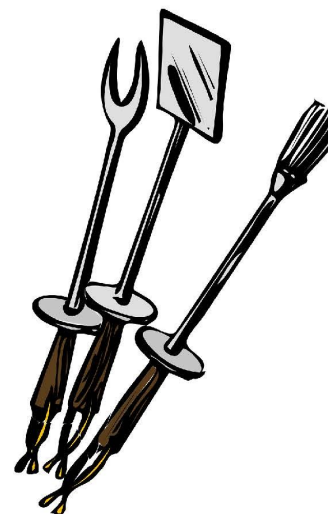
**Hamburgers, brats, salad, chips, &
refreshments will be served.**

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, June 17th.

**Come join us for great food & great
friends!**



**209 North Garfield Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 336-0494**



FALLEN HERO BRIDGE DEDICATIONS

The Fallen Hero Bridge program dedicates state bridges to South Dakotans who were killed in action while serving their country or classified as missing in action. Naming South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives us the opportunity of remembrance, reflection, and respect—to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation.

This year, South Dakota will be dedicating 12 state bridges honoring fallen heroes. The dedication schedule is as follows:

PFC Frederick Farlee and SGT Richard Maynard Bridges—June 25 at 10:30 am (MT) at the Pioneer Hall in Dupree.
Cpl John Hutchison Bridge—July 1 at 10:30 am (CT) at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre.
SSG Robert Prue Bridge—July 5 at 11:00 am (CT) at the Bishop Jones Auditorium in Mission.
PFC David Gatton Bridge—July 16 at 1:00 pm (CT) at the Capitol Lake Visitors Center in Pierre.
SGT James Haider Bridge—August 13 at 10:30 am (CT) at the BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center in Watertown.
PVT August Otto Bridge—August 20 at 11:00 am (CT) at the Claire City Community Hall.
CPL Martin Fluegel Bridge—September 17 at 1:00 pm (CT) at McCook Central High School in Salem.
PVT Frederic Schroeder Bridge—October 1 at 1:00 pm (CT) at the VFW in Madison.
Capt Tommy Callies Bridge—November 11 at 9:30 am (CT) at the Howard High School.
S2 Wayne Bridge Bridge—November 11 at 2:00 pm (CT) at the Wagner High School.
SSG Daniel Cuka Bridge—date and location TBD.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 9-12—State VFW Convention—4-H Fairgrounds—(3200 W Havens Avenue)—Mitchell
Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride—SD Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls
Jun 14—Flag Day
Jun 16-19—State American Legion Conference—Watertown
Jun 18—Midwest Honor Flight 3rd Reunion—Sioux Falls Convention Center—11:00 am (CT)
Jun 19—Father's Day
Jun 25—Lake County Abate Poker Run for Midwest Honor Flight
Jun 20—State Offices Closed
Jun 22—PVA Annual Chapter Picnic—PVA Headquarters—(209 North Garfield Avenue)—Sioux Falls—11:45 am (CT)
Jun 25—PFC Frederick Farlee and SGT Richard Maynard Bridge Dedications—Pioneer Hall—Dupree—10:30 am (MT)
Jun 29-Jul 4—Parkston's Celebration of Freedom—City Park—Parkston
Jul 1—Cpl John Hutchison Bridge Dedication—Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center—Fort Pierre—10:30 am (CT)
Jul 4—Independence Day
Jul 5—SSG Robert Prue Bridge Dedication—Bishop Jones Auditorium—Mission—11:00 am (CT)
Jul 9—Sioux Falls Canaries Military Night
Jul 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)
Jul 16—PFC David Gatton Bridge Dedication—Capitol Lake Visitors Center—Pierre—1:00 pm (CT)
Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 6-9—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL
Aug 13—SGT James Haider Bridge Dedication—BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center—Watertown—10:30 am (CT)
Aug 14-19—Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention—Rapid City
Aug 15-17—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School
Aug 18-23—USS Iowa Veterans Association Reunion—Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center—Rapid City
Aug 20—PVT August Otto Bridge Dedication—Claire City Community Hall—11:00 am (CT)
Aug 22—The Barrel House Day of Giving fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight—Sioux Falls
Sep 1—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
Sep 1-5—South Dakota State Fair
Sep 3—727th/DAV Poker Run—Swiftel Center (824 32nd Avenue)—Brookings—10:00 am (CT)
Sep 5—Labor Day
Sep 10—Heroes Helping with Horsepower Military Appreciation Event—W. Main Street—Ethan—Festivities begin at 8:00 am (CT)
Sep 14-17—Black Hills Veterans March
Sep 17—CPL Martin Fluegel Bridge Dedication—McCook Central High School—Salem—1:00 pm (CT)
Oct 1—PVT Frederic Schroeder Bridge Dedication—VFW—Madison—1:00 pm (CT)
Oct 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)
Oct 10—Native American Day
Oct 15—Midwest Honor Flight Fifth Annual Hangar Dance—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)
Oct 21—PVA Dueling Pianos Fundraiser—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)
Nov 5—We've Got Your Six Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—(1401 Lazelle Street)—Sturgis—11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
Nov 11—Veterans Day
Nov 11—Capt Tommy Callies Bridge Dedication—November 11—Howard High School—9:30 am (CT)
Nov 11—S2 Wayne Bridge Bridge Dedication—Wagner High School—2:00 pm (CT)
Nov 24—Thanksgiving Day
Dec 6—Governor's Budget Address
Dec 17—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)
Dec 25—Christmas
Jan 10—Governor's State of the State Address

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